

LATHAM & WATKINS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.

SUITE 1300

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-2505

TELEPHONE (202) 637-2200

FAX (202) 637-2201

PAUL R. WATKINS (1899 - 1973)
DANA LATHAM (1898 - 1974)

CHICAGO OFFICE

SEARS TOWER, SUITE 5800
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60608
PHONE (312) 876-7700, FAX 993-9767

HONG KONG OFFICE

SUITE 2205A, 22ND FLOOR
NO. 9 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
HONG KONG
PHONE + 852-2522-7886, FAX 2522-7006

LONDON OFFICE

ONE ANGEL COURT
LONDON EC2R 7HJ ENGLAND
PHONE + 44-171-374 4444, FAX 374 4460

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

633 WEST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 4000
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071-2007
PHONE (213) 485-1234, FAX 891-8763

MOSCOW OFFICE

ULITS A GASHEKA, 7, 9TH FLOOR
MOSCOW 123056, RUSSIA
PHONE + 7-095 765-1234, FAX 765-1235

NEW JERSEY OFFICE

ONE NEWARK CENTER, 16TH FLOOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07101-3174
PHONE (973) 639-1234, FAX 639-7298

NEW YORK OFFICE

885 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 1000
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-4802
PHONE (212) 908-1200, FAX 751-4864

ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE

650 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 2000
COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92626-1925
PHONE (714) 540-1235, FAX 755-6290

SAN DIEGO OFFICE

701 'B' STREET, SUITE 2100
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-8197
PHONE (619) 236-1234, FAX 696-7419

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

505 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 1900
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111-2562
PHONE (415) 391-0600, FAX 395-8095

SILICON VALLEY OFFICE

135 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025
PHONE (650) 328-4600, FAX 463-2600

SINGAPORE OFFICE

20 CECIL STREET, SUITE 25-02
THE EXCHANGE, SINGAPORE 049705
PHONE + 65-536-1161, FAX 536-1171

TOKYO OFFICE

INFINI AKASAKA, 8-7-15, AKASAKA, MINATO-KU
TOKYO 107-0052, JAPAN
PHONE +813-3423-3970, FAX 3423-3971

March 29, 1999

RECEIVED
MAR 29 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals - 445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 98-206; IB Docket No. 98-172; **EX PARTE**

Dear Ms. Salas:

This is to advise you that on Thursday, March 18, 1999, Merrill Spiegel and Paul Anderson (by telephone) of DIRECTV, Inc. ("DIRECTV"), and Giselle Gomez and the undersigned, also on behalf of DIRECTV, met with Tom Tycz, Chief of the Satellite & Radiocommunication Division (the "Division"), International Bureau; Harry Ng, Engineering Advisor to the Division; Karl Kensinger, Special Advisor to the Division; Julie Garcia of the Satellite Engineering Branch of the Division; and Jennifer Gilsean of the Satellite Policy Branch of the Division. The attached document, which outlines the issues of discussion, was provided to the participants at the meeting.

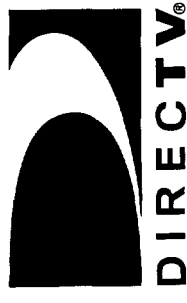
An original and two copies of this letter and attachment are enclosed.

Sincerely,


James H. Barker
of LATHAM & WATKINS

Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 072
List A B C D E



Ensure Use of 17.3 - 17.8 GHz Band for the BSS

DIRECTV, Inc.

March 18, 1999

Region 2 BSS Allocations



- Only 1000 MHz of spectrum allocated to BSS below 40 GHz in Region 2: 12.2 -12.7 GHz and 17.3 - 17.8 GHz (WRC-97 identified 3000 MHz of spectrum for NGSO FSS use in each direction)
- Use of additional capacity in 12 GHz Planned Band not expected to be possible
- 17 GHz band is a critical source of additional BSS capacity
- This BSS allocation, with associated wide satellite spacing and no PFD limits, make it ideal for DBS

Need for the 17.3 - 17.8 GHz Band for BSS



- Provide strong competition to cable systems whose programming capacity is increasing dramatically as they convert to digital
- Provide both Standard Definition TV and HDTV
- Supplement existing 12 GHz service, e.g., niche, ethnic and educational programming
- Maintain and improve technical quality of the broadcast through implementation of new technologies

Feasibility of NGSO FSS

Sharing with the BSS



- NGSO FSS (Earth-to-space) has proposed sharing with BSS - “Reverse Band Working”
- Concern is interference from transmitting NGSO user and gateway terminals to BSS receive dishes
- Successful BSS service is dependent on the ability to deploy ubiquitous user terminals
- JTG agreed that sharing with NGSO FSS user terminals and the BSS service is not feasible

Results of USA Studies on NGSO Gateways



- Without shielding:
 - Coordination distance is 100 km -- Potential affected USA residences = 3.1 Million per gateway terminal
 - Worst case separation distance is 93.9 km -- Potential affected USA residences = 2.8 Million per gateway terminal
 - Best case separation distance is 15.8 km -- Potential affected USA residences = 78,400 per gateway terminal
- If 20 dB of shielding can be realized:
 - Worst case separation distance may still potentially affect 25,000 USA residences per gateway terminal
- Above distances will overly constrain the BSS; thus, NGSO FSS should not be allowed to use this band

Regulatory Issues Affecting Potential Use of the 17 GHz Band by NGSO FSS



- Region 2 BSS allocation does not come into effect until 2007
- If there is a Region 2 allocation for NGSO FSS at 17 GHz prior to 2007, this creates an international border concern
- There would be no regulatory opportunity for USA to comment on deployment of NGSO FSS earth station (users or gateways) near a USA border prior to 2007



Regulatory Issues Affecting Potential Use of the 17 GHz Band by NGSO FSS (continued)

- USA BSS service in the 17 GHz band would have to accept interference from notified NGSO FSS earth stations when their systems are implemented on or after 2007
- RCS has proposed that NGSO FSS should not operate in the 17.3 - 17.8 GHz band because both Radiolocation and BSS are incompatible with NGSO FSS services